

REMARKS


The Examiner is thanked for the courtesy shown during the interview of August 13, 2004. On the basis of that interview, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, and 6 to recite that the smoothening step is a hydrogen plasma treatment. Applicants believe that with this amendment, their claims are now commensurate in scope with the experimental data of record, which establishes the patentability of the claims over the prior art of record. Applicants therefore ask that the pending prior art be reconsidered and withdrawn.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. If, for any reason, it is believed that this application is not in condition for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number below to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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